This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A decoder interface comprising:

an input circuit that has a port for receiving encoded data from an external source;

control circuitry that is coupled to and controls the input circuit to operate selectively in a first mode to receive raw byte data at the port from said external source, and in a second mode to receive tokens at the port from said external source; and

a plurality of stages, including an initial and an intermediate stage, <u>said stages having an associated parser,</u> said tokens having information ~~for preparing said initial and/or said intermediate stage~~<u>used by said parser to prepare said stages</u> for processing.

2.   (Original) The decoder interface of claim 1, wherein the port comprises a coded data port.

3.   (Original) The decoder interface of claim 1, wherein the port comprises a microprocessor interface.

4.   (Original) The decoder interface of claim 2, wherein the port further includes a microprocessor interface.

5.   (Previoulsy amended) The decoder interface of claim 1, wherein the control circuitry includes a byte mode signal for selecting the first mode or the second mode.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Original) The decoder interface of claim 1, wherein the received raw byte data is placed into tokens.

8.   (Original) The decoder interface of claim 7, wherein a first byte of the raw byte data causes a token header to be generated.

9.   (Original) The decoder interface of claim 8, wherein subsequent bytes of the raw byte data are appended to the token header to form tokens.

10.   (Currently amended) A method of operating an input circuit to receive encoded data for decoding purposes comprising:

    operating the input circuit in a first mode to receive raw byte data at a port of the input circuit from an external source;

     operating the input circuit in a second mode to receive tokens at the port of the input circuit from said external source; and

    providing a plurality of stages, including an initial and an intermediate stage, said stages having an associated parser, said tokens having information for preparing said initial and/or said intermediate stage used by said parser to prepare said stages for processing.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the port is a coded data port.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the port is a microprocessor interface.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein a byte mode selects one of the first mode or the second mode.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein operating the input circuit in the first mode comprises:

forming tokens from the received raw byte data.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein forming tokens comprises:

generating a token header in response to receiving a first byte of the raw byte data.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

appending subsequent bytes of the raw byte data to the generated token header.